

# CASE OF LAFEAN 'FLIMSY,' SAYS JUDGE

York Alderman Defends Refusal to Require Bail of More Than \$500

\$300 ENOUGH, HE ASSERTS

By a Staff Correspondent

York, Pa., Aug. 23.—Walter F. Owen, magistrate, who refused to hold former Banking Commissioner Daniel F. Lafean in more than \$500 bail, sought to justify his action today by declaring the case against Lafean "flimsy." He declared he had judged the case on its merits.

"I feel justified," he said, "in refusing to consent to the ridiculous idea of \$7500 bail. The charge in the affidavit which I read seemed to me to be very flimsy."

"If it had been any one else but Dan Lafean, I would have put the bail at \$300, but this case being one going out of this county I thought I'd better make the bail \$500, as I did. This North Penn Bank case has upset our politics here in York. You'd be surprised."

"Why, when you think that William Elliott, a motorman on the York-Dallastown Line, who ran by a block signal and killed a whole lot of people, men, women and even children, was held by me in only \$2500 bail and got only a year for manslaughter, too, it's easy to see how foolish this idea of high bail for Dan Lafean was."

## Always Battled Lafean

"To tell the truth, I don't know why Lafean came here to me to be arraigned. Dan Lafean and I never agreed. We always battled, and I always won."

"Am I a lawyer?"

"No, I'm no lawyer, but I claim myself a 'self-made man.' I just took the Lafean case as a law matter. If it was politics I would have 'waxed' him good, believe me. He's a Republican and I'm a Democrat. Tell the truth, I've always been against Lafean."

"Of course, this Lafean case was sort of like holding a man for court, 'cause you know them Philadelphia magistrates are higher than an alderman. Then, him going to another city's sorter different, too."

"I've been an alderman in this town for seventeen years and all that time I've fought Dan Lafean, tooth and nail, and he's never licked me yet. If there'd been any reason for such a thing I'd 'a' held Dan Lafean for \$10,000. You see the highest bail I've ever wrote was \$2500."

## They Call Him Walt

Alderman-Magistrate Owen, genial, friendly, to be sure, and, apparently, is affectionately dubbed 'Walt' by his intimates, who are legion in all walks of life in York. He is of medium height, heavy set, and much inclined to corpulence.

"I could have had better jobs than this," said Magistrate Alderman Owen, depreciatingly, but this puts up, I am now at work on my seventh murder case since I became a judge seventeen years ago.

## Commissions, Not Salary

"Do I get paid, a salary?"

"No—commissions."

"I make a lot from my criminal and civil work. I'm really doing more business than many of the lawyers here at the bar. I'm in good health, feel fine, and I'm a ball player, too."

"If I'd had any 'slap' coming to Dan Lafean I had my chance when he came before me in my court. But I give every one a 'square deal.'"

"My criminal docket runs 3120 cases since I've been in office as judge, and my cases range from petty larceny to murder."

"Is Dan Lafean the best liked man in York?"

"Well, I wouldn't just exactly say that. Personally, but not politically, he's much liked here. He carried twelve of thirteen wards in York the last five times he ran for Congress. But he never carried my ward, the old First. It's got a Democratic majority of 165. Dan did, though, cut down our majority some."

## Strang Is Held in \$35,000 Bail

Continued From Page One

the banking department, had personal differences, and that when Strang was discharged from his position as paying teller, he took the checks as a protection to himself.

Mr. Gordon swept these assertions aside with a smile. He told the magistrate that Strang had no right to the checks, that they were bank property, and added:

"We do not know how much more this man took. We are not prepared to say at this time and do not know how well he liked his pockets. Therefore, with huge sums at stake, I ask that he not be given a chance to jump his bail."

"But, with the head alleged conspirator only held in \$25,000 bail, it is a hardship and I do not think this man can get that amount."

"Well," said Mr. Gordon, "he was next to Meyer."

## A Common Fugitive

Mr. Gordon then emphasized that the prisoner was "a common fugitive from justice." In reply to these assertions, Mr. Wells said that the district attorney's office had received word from Strang that he would surrender.

"Yes," said Mr. Gordon earnestly, "our office was approached and offers were made and we awaited the surrender of this man. His coming was promised often, but the people he sent to see us lied, and he did not appear."

"If he had wanted to come back he had more than a month. We looked for him, and we found him. And we found between \$300,000 and \$400,000 of the bank's property on him. He took the checks because they were the tangible evidence of his guilt."

Magistrate Rooney glanced over the heads of the more than 100 persons who packed the little courtroom. By this time the steps were jammed and the sidewalk lined by the curious crowd.

For more than a minute Rooney did not speak. Strang stood on one foot and then on another. It was evident that he was under great mental strain.

The young daddy, who, on \$25,000 bail, was wanted for a \$10,000 home in

Cynwyd, had lost his debonair air. His soft collar was wilted by perspiration.

## Eyes Plead for Mercy

His hands first touched the railing and then dropped at his side. Once he looked at Mr. Gordon. In his dark eyes there appeared almost a plea for mercy.

The well-known figure of the central hotels and of Broadway cafes, no longer presented an appearance of elegance, despite his fine clothes. His short-cropped mustache moved as his lips twitched nervously.

"I see," said Magistrate Rooney, "the point made by the district attorney. Strang swallowed hard. Blinks of perspiration stood on his brow. His hand moved forward, his eyes riveted on the judge."

"I hold you in \$35,000 bail for a further hearing on September 4," pronounced the magistrate.

Then the attorney grasped the man's arm and pulled him back to the railing.

The prisoner's face was scarlet. The judge while he was endeavoring to tell his automobile. Detectives from this city brought him here after he said he would voluntarily come without waiting for extradition papers.

When the train crossed the Pennsylvania line he was formally arrested. The prisoner was taken to a hotel and given a "third degree" by Mr. Gordon and James T. Corry, chief of the district attorney's detectives.

After a sleep and an early breakfast the prisoner was taken to Mr. Corry's office in the Penn Square building. Here he was again subjected to a terrible bombardment of questions. It is intimated that he gave valuable information to the detectives, but he did not confess.

After the grueling and shortly before noon, the prisoner was taken to the magistrate's office. Few recognized the man on the streets. Mr. Gordon followed.

When the prisoner turned into Sanson street near Fifteenth he saw his aunt for the first time. The woman approached. There were tears in her eyes.

Strang affectionately placed his arm around the woman's waist. The aunt began to sob and a tear came into the eyes of the prisoner. He did not speak, but wiped the tears away from his eyes with his hand. His eyes blinked, his hands clutched and he turned to the detective and entered the hearing, soon followed by Mrs. Strang.

At first he maintained a stoical appearance, but this changed during a half-hour delay for papers from City Hall. Strang continuously chewed gum and glanced furtively at the spectators.

The only words he spoke was when he gave his name, and said that he lived at 2013 North Twenty-ninth street.

## STRANG ARRESTED IN DAY OF THRILLS

Capture of Missing Teller Only One of Features in North Penn Bank Case

Announcement of the arrest of Elwood Strang, late yesterday afternoon, came as the dramatic finale to a day of thrills for those interested in the clearing up of the bank scandal.

Daniel F. Lafean, former state banking commissioner, was arrested at his home in York on a charge of misdemeanor in office and held in \$5000 bail for a hearing here on September 8.

Then Louis A. Michel, bank president, and William T. Gabel, one of the directors, were the center of interest in a wordy legal battle between J. Washington Logan, counsel for Michel, and John Lamm, counsel for Gabel, and Joseph H. Taulane, assistant district attorney.

The hearing of the two men was almost forced to a standstill and the president and director lost the center of the stage when, just before Magistrate Pennek held them in \$10,000 bail each, word of Strang's arrest was flashed.

"Strang's pinched!"

The dramatic whisper spread over the hearing room. Michel and Gabel both caught the report, and realizing its import, made inquiries. The hearing was hastily brought to a conclusion then and the large amount of bail fixed because of the incriminating evidence unearthed by Mr. Taulane's examination.

## STRANG ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLEMENT

Affidavit Charges North Penn Teller With Taking Bank's Money for Own Use

The affidavit against Elwood Strang, paying teller, held in the North Penn Bank case, follows:

"Robert P. Ferguson, being duly sworn according to law, depose and say that he is a state bank examiner of the Banking Department of the state of Pennsylvania."

"That the North Penn Bank is a banking company incorporated under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania."

"That Elwood H. Strang was on July 18, 1918, and within two years prior thereto, paying teller, clerk and employee of the said North Penn Bank."

"That at the county of Philadelphia, state of Pennsylvania, within two years last past, said Elwood H. Strang so employed as paying teller, clerk and employee of the said North Penn Bank, did embezzle and convert to his own use and to the use of other persons divers sums of money of the North Penn Bank, to wit, \$7000 and upwards."

The affidavit was signed by Robert P. Ferguson, state banking examiner, before Charles P. Rooney, magistrate.

## From Strayer's to Success

Elwood H. Strang, 1200 North 15th St., graduated at Strayer's Business College, in June, and the day after was graduated with a place in a position with the Hall & Johnson Manufacturing Co., at 1200 West 11th St., Erie.

Those for particulars about Strayer's can do so by writing to Strayer's, 1200 West 11th St., Erie, Pa.

## STRAYER'S

1200 West 11th St., Erie, Pa.

# MEXICAN BRIGANDS' TRAIL GROWING COLDER

Outlaws Reach Mountain Fastnesses, Apparently Escaping From American Troops

BORDER PACT IS PLANNED

By the Associated Press

Marfa, Tex., Aug. 23.—Pursuit of Mexican bandits by the American punitive expedition is continuing south from the point in Mexico where an American camp has been established, it was announced today.

The trails are not considered "hot," however, and as the bandits have reached the mountain fastnesses it is feared they have escaped.

Major General Joseph T. Dickman, commander of the Southern Department, left last night for San Antonio, after completing inspection of the border forces and familiarizing himself with the details of the punitive expedition.

Before leaving, the general said an effort would be made to pay the bandits the \$8500 remaining of the ransom money for the aviators, although he did not say just how this would be done.

Rumors of further bandit captures and bombing of bandit strongholds, which found circulation at various times yesterday, proved unfounded, but the possibility of using bombs in wiping out the bandits developed with the arrival of aerial bombs for experimental purposes and an announcement that these might be used if a bandit force should be found in any considerable numbers.

Should Punish McManus

"Why did not the district attorney publish in the papers that it would be all right? That McManus ought to be punished, too."

Mrs. Bergdoll referred to a friend of Grover's who received a postcard from him, saying he was where he could not be found.

"Grover likes to go down to the wilds of Virginia. He had been there many times. Long before the war, he wrote me just the same sort of a postcard. He said that where he was located, the devil himself couldn't find

him for two years, or some such thing. He meant nothing by the postcard he wrote to McManus. He was on his way home, when at Harrisburg some one showed him the papers with the story in them that he was wanted as a draft dodger. He got scared, shipped his car on, and went away."

"I thought sure that now that peace has returned my boys could come home to me. But, no, they had to go right away again."

In reply to a question, Mrs. Bergdoll said that Grover and Erwin had been well when they were home, and would be happy if only they could stay here.

Todd Daniel, superintendent for this district of the Bureau of Investigation, has not given up hope of getting the two youths, though their dramatic escape from the closely woven net of watchers left him decidedly crestfallen.

Today he and his men are busy running out various "clues," which Mr. Daniel hopes may lead to the arrest of one or both of the brothers.

## Trouble Draws Crowd

The Bergdoll home was the object of curious remark by scores of motorists this morning, who paused in passing it to take a good look at the square stone building with red tiled roofs, set in the midst of the finest estates in the neighborhood.

Some of these same motorists, neighbors of the Bergdolls, parked their cars near the house on this way to business yesterday morning, and spent the rest of the day standing on the sidewalk in front of the house, waiting minute by minute to see "something happen."

The small boys of Wynnefield, most of whom know the Bergdoll household, watched and listened for him last night, hoping that he might try to slip into cover at home again in the same dramatic fashion as the night before.

One of the rumors that has been going the rounds in Wynnefield is that Grover Bergdoll served during the war under an assumed name. A good many of the neighbors believe this is true. They say it would be characteristic of the young man, whose eccentricities either amused or annoyed the suburban section where he lived even before he

at her feet, scratching at a torn ear.

"Poor Kaiser," said Mrs. Bergdoll, "he hurt his ears trying to get out when I had him penned up. He was like Grover—he wanted his freedom."

"If I were Grover," said Mrs. Bergdoll, "and I could not get fair treatment in this country, I would go to some other country where I could get justice, where I would not be hounded and dogged."

## Says Other Slackers Home

"If the authorities would get after all the other slackers I would not say a word. The 40,000 slackers in Philadelphia are all home. They are not even mentioned by name by the authorities. Only these two—only my boys—are being spoken of."

"I don't know how the boys themselves feel about it; but that's the way I feel. That's what I would have done in their boots. That's what I feel like doing myself. I have always stuck to the country where I lived and had my interests—and I've got everything here. But it is not hard to change. Peace has come; I could sell out and go."

"My boys have never been given a chance. Why, even the conscientious objectors were given money and sent home. If the conscientious objectors get this, all should get it. If that is the democracy talked about so much, then I don't want any of it."

"If I could get hold of my boys I would tell them to go to the district attorney and get the thing fixed up. They speak of Grover's notoriety. He was not to blame for it. He wrote a card saying that he'd come home if they would not prosecute him."

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got into serious trouble with the government.

## Rumor Searchers Tricked

Another rumor which found much credence was that he had been in the house all the time Todd Daniel and his agents were searching, hidden in some cleverly concealed hiding hole, and made his getaway two hours after the search was called off.

Color is given this rumor by the disappearance of the big six-cylinder touring car which stood in the driveway near the side door of the Bergdoll mansion all the time the search was going on yesterday.

## Shot During Fight

John Wayland, twenty-five years old, of 1722 North Lambert street, was treated for a bullet wound in the knee at the Hahnemann Hospital. He was shot during an altercation near his home. No arrests were made.

## HOMES ENDANGERED BY BLAZE IN STABLE, THREE HORSES LOST

Neighbors Move Furniture From Houses, Fearing Spread of Bodine Street Fire

Three horses were burned to death early today in a fire that destroyed a frame stable in the rear of 1029 Bodine street. Eight other horses in an adjoining stable, which became filled with smoke during the blaze, were rescued by members of Engine Company No. 29, from Fourth street and Girard avenue.

The stable building was owned by Jacob Glass, and the horses by Isaac Cohen, a teamster. Two small wagons and some harness were also destroyed by the flames. The total fire damage was about \$300.

## Names Brown's Mills Man

Trenton, Aug. 23.—Governor Runyon today announced the appointment of Dr. Marcus W. Newcomb, of Brown's Mills, as a member of the Burlington county board of elections.

## The most important political document in world history—

The German Peace Treaty given word for word in the August issue

Current History Magazine

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# SEIZURE of FOOD in STORAGE!

What Effect Will It Have NEXT Winter?

BEFORE embarking on what seems to be an orgy of "storage food seizure," it is proper that the public and officials look beyond the immediate present!

Agents of the Government, attempting to quickly reduce living costs, are seizing stored food stuffs in various sections of the country, and announcing their intention to force immediate marketing of the food, some of which is in process of cure, the balance for use in winter or the season of short production.

Foods That Are Stored

The Surplus Egg Production of March, April, May and June.

The Surplus Butter Production of May, June and July.

The Surplus Beef from Range Cattle as Marketed in the Fall.

The Surplus Pork Production—(Most of It To Be Cured.)

Unless the surplus of the season's production is available for gradual distribution there is bound to be a scarcity.

The present movement may be likened to the cutting down of a tree in order to obtain its fruit. That is one way to get the fruit in a hurry, but it has a disastrous effect upon next year's crop.

There can be no defense for the withholding of food in order to increase the price. We do not do this. The use of cold storage for speculation deserves the severest condemnation, and every good citizen will endorse common sense inspection of food reserves.

A line must be drawn, however, between speculation and prudent laying away of food for the season of non-productivity. If the course of unchecked seizure is pursued, it will mean shortage next winter.

Most of the meat in storage is owned by firms

which perform a real function in the process of distribution, and which have regular customers, whose needs they supply. The success of these firms depends largely on the ability of their managers to estimate market demands and to buy, store and sell accordingly.

The fact that there is more food of various kinds in storage at this time than was the case a year ago is really beneficial when consideration is given to the fact that 100,000,000 people in the U.S.A. are to be supplied and foreign countries as well.

Our business experience for a period of years has had to do with problems incident to the storage of food and we believe that if food supplies now in storage be prematurely forced on the market HUNGER may join our ranks this winter.

## Mrs. Bergdoll Calls Sons "Good Boys"

Continued From Page One

house both were alive, do you think I would leave my house burn to save his? We should not try to mind other people's business. I always try to sweep the dirt from my own door, and leave other people's dirt alone. That is how we ought to have acted in the war, and we would have had no trouble."

"Kaiser," the supervisor of Mrs. Bergdoll's pair of rabbit dogs, was sitting

## CHILDREN'S WALL TENT

Erect a tent for them in the front or back yard. The air will do them good. Lots of fun. Best quality material. Write for catalog on larger sizes and camp supplies.

ARMY SUPPLY CO., 631 MARKET

## PANAMANIAN YOUNG MAN

23 years of age, educated in the Canal Zone schools, at present living in the Republic of Panama and working for the United States Government, good at Spanish, translation, typewriting and stenography, desires position in Philadelphia. Will sail from Colon at 10 days' notice.

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Nut. \$11.35 Pea. \$9.45

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